

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141131

17

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MILI, PFOR, AO, PO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PORTUGUESE USE OF NATO ARMS IN AFRICA

REF.: (A) LISBON 2630 (B) USNATO 3543 (C) LUANDA 483

1. REFTELS CONTAIN FULL EXTENT DEPT'S KNOWLEDGE
OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER
SOARES.

2. WHILE NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED, IF ASKED,
DEPT. SPOKESMAN WILL REPLY TAHT WE DO NOT HAVE FULL
TEXT OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER
SOARES BUT THE US HAS, SINCE 1961, MAINTAINED AN
EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT (NOT ONLY
ARMS) TO PORTUGAL FOR USE IN ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 141131

OVER THE YEARS, VAGUE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT

US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS BEING USED IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO INVESTIGATE THESE ALLEGATIONS. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOT FOUND A SINGLE CASE WHERE THE EMBARGO WAS VIOLATED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

3. WHILE NATO DID NOT ADOPT A COMMON POLICY ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO PORTUGAL SOME INDIVIDUAL NATO MEMBER STATES HAVE IMPOSED VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. SISCO

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